

## Practical Tariff Talks

Women will be glad to know that, according to the tariff makers, artificial feathers and flowers are luxuries, and that, therefore, they should pay 10 per cent more than they did under the old law, or 60 per cent. Those women, however, who are able to afford the purchase of the more expensive but real feathers, ostrich, birds of paradise and the like, may continue to import them at the old rate of 60 per cent. The price of hats in this country has been steadily rising. The explanation lies in the fact that the American manufacturers are getting a more complete monopoly of the business under the high protection afforded by the law. Only about \$2,000,000 worth of hats are imported each year. The tax on a straw hat form is 35 per cent, but if it is trimmed the tax is 50 per cent.

Thus a hat that costs an importer \$25 in Paris costs him \$37.50 when he gets it to New York. If he were satisfied to do business on a 40 per cent profit, for instance, and there had been no tariff, he could have sold the hat for \$35, but when he does sell it he must add as his 40 per cent profit, 40 per cent of \$37.50, or \$15, thus making his selling price \$52.50, or \$17.50 more than if the hats were duty free. The importer sells to a retailer, and assuming that the latter adds 40 per cent for profit, the ordinary estimate, it can be seen how the original tariff tax of \$12.50 is almost doubled before the customer gets the hat. If the hat costs the retailer \$52.50 he adds \$21 for profit, making its price to the woman who eventually wears it \$73.50. If there had been no duty and the ordinary 40 per cent profit of each person who handled it were added the cost to her would have been \$49, or \$24.50 less than she had to pay. The same percentage would run through the calculation if the hat were lower-priced. If, for instance, the original Paris price were \$5 the cost to the eventual wearer would be \$14.70, whereas without a tariff the cost would be nearly \$5 less.

There are many other items in the tariff bill that will interest the women. If they desire to decorate their hats with beaded trimmings they will find that 60 per cent has been added to the price of this trimming abroad by the tariff makers. If she should desire to lessen the cost some and equip it with metallic trimmings or metal galloons, she will find that in addition to the 60 per cent tariff she will have to pay 3 1/4 cents an ounce. If she wishes to use cotton velvet a minimum tariff of 47 1/2 per cent is fixed, but if silk velvet is used instead the cost is but 9 3/4 cents an ounce, a discrimination in favor of the silk, expressed in average percentages of 67 for the cotton velvet and 34 per cent for the silk. If the velvet ribbon used is black the tariff is 10 cents an ounce, but if colored the charge is 11 cents an ounce.

The same discrimination in favor of the woman who can afford to buy the dearer trimmings and the dearer hat is shown in the matter of both feathers and ribbons. If genuine silk ribbons are used the tariff tax is 50 per cent, but if the ribbon is of cotton the tax is 60 per cent. If artificial silk ribbons are desired the cost is still more, 2 1/2 cents an ounce and 60 per cent additional. The tariff tax gatherer reaches out for a tax of 25 per cent upon the hatpin with which she affixes her headgear to her hair, and if the latter happens to be comprised in part of puffs or curls they must pay 35 per cent. In addition to the 25 per cent upon the pins there is a specific charge ranging from 1 cent up to 10 cents each. The percentages given represent the tariff tax levied upon the foreign price of the article which, as has been shown in the case of the completed hat, is multiplied by the number of hands through which the stuff passes before it reaches the user. If the articles are American made the fact that the imported article which might compete with it is taxed enables the home manufacturer, if market conditions are right, to add this tariff tax to the foreign price.

C. Q. D.

### PATRIOTIC POLITICS

The democratic minority in the house of representatives has declared itself solid for the reciprocity agreement with Canada. The declaration is a piece of sound patriotism and good

politics. It helps Taft, to be sure, but it helps the democratic party more. It shows that party to be in the hands of leaders who know what the country needs, and mean to provide it. It proves that the concerted effort to capture the democratic party for the "interests" has so far failed. May it continue to fail!—Denver News.

### SHIP SUBSIDY AND WATSON

Wheeling Intelligencer: Why! Because C. W. Watson in the United States senate, does not represent the democratic party. He does not represent the republican party. He does not represent any party and he does not represent the people of West Virginia. He represents the financial interests of the Standard Oil company and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad company and their associates. Those interests are in favor of the ship subsidy bill.

Wheeling Register: Since Senator Watson plainly indicates in his statement to the Register that he was opposed to the passage of the bill, he no doubt feels very keenly the unenviable position in which he has been placed through the erroneous information he received, and his unfamiliarity with senatorial customs.

Columbus Dispatch: Ship subsidy has been pushed through the United States senate by a pair of tricks—the exercise of a voting prerogative rarely used by the vice president and the convenient absence of a democratic senator from West Virginia. A good cause never requires the use of such desperate measures.

New York Evening Post: That the ship subsidy bill should pass even one house of congress is bad enough. That it should pass because a new democratic senator failed to stay in his seat to vote is fresh proof of the absence of proper leadership in the democratic party. Now the fight will be on in dead earnest in the house of representatives, and there the bill should be beaten at all costs.

Indianapolis Star: It is apparent that Senator Watson's absence from the chamber was not accidental, for matters of this sort are not left to chance. The vote of the vice president was absolutely certain, as he is bound in a peculiar sense by the Chicago platform. Incidentally Mr. Lorimer has no doubt cast an anchor to windward that will stay his beleaguered bark against any further storms at this session.

### DEMOCRATIC WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE—THIS COMMITTEE WILL ALSO SELECT OTHER HOUSE COMMITTEES

Upon fourteen members of the democratic house of representatives in the Sixty-second congress has been laid a heavy responsibility. These fourteen men are the recently selected democratic members of the ways and means committee of the next congress. Not only are they charged with the task of framing a bill to revise downward the duties upon imports now levied under the Payne-Aldrich act, but they must select and submit to the approval of the democratic caucus of the house, the chairmen and all of the members of all of the other standing committees of the house.

The personnel of the democratic majority of the ways and means committee, as selected at the recent caucus, has met with general approval by the democrats in the house and out of it. All of the men selected, with one exception, have clean tariff records from the viewpoint of the downward revisionists. Mr. Brantley of Georgia is the exception.

Oscar W. Underwood, representing the Ninth district of Alabama, who will be the chairman of the ways and means committee, has been a member of the house since the beginning of the Fifty-fourth congress. He is a member of the ways and means committee of the present house, and therefore sat on the committee which framed the Payne bill.

Dorsey W. Shackelford of the Eighth Missouri district was first elected to the Fifty-sixth congress, and has been continuously a member of the house ever since.

Henry T. Rainey of Illinois has been a member of the house since the Fifty-eighth congress. He has not previously served on the ways and means committee.

Ollie M. James, representing the First Kentucky district, came to Washington first as a member of the Fifty-eighth congress and has not failed of re-election since that time. During his service in congress he has made himself one of the most conspicuous members of the democratic minority.

A. Mitchell Palmer, representing the Twenty-sixth congressional district of Pennsylvania, is now serving his first term in the house. Before he came to congress he was a lawyer and in-

### VITAL ISSUES

Senator Robert L. Owen.—The vital issue in the United States is, whether the body of our people shall be ruled and exploited by selfish interests operating through political parties controlled by machine management, or whether we shall have a government directed by the best intelligence and conscience of the American people.

Shall our legislature control the people, or shall the people control the legislature?

Shall legislators and other officers be the servants or the masters of the public?

Shall we have a common-sense business government or shall we allow privilege seeking interests and politicians to run the state for us?

The proposals of "popular government," the initiative and referendum, the recall, the corrupt practices act, direct primary, the commission plan of city government, does not mean the overthrow of representative government, as the machine politicians declare; it means the perfection of representative government, so that the representative shall really represent the represented and the delegate be actually delegated by those who should delegate power; it means the end of graft and fraud through the mechanism of machine politics in alliance with commercialism.

It means the end of bi-partisan raciality.

interested in a number of financial and industrial institutions in his district.

William Hughes of the Sixth New Jersey district was a member of the Fifty-eighth congress. He did not come to the Fifty-ninth congress, but was elected to the Sixtieth and re-elected to the Sixty-first and the Sixty-second. He is a lawyer, thirty-nine years old.

Francis Burton Harrison is one of the New York City congressmen. He came to the house first at the beginning of the Fifty-eighth congress. He was not a member of the Fifty-ninth congress, but came back at the beginning of the Sixtieth and has since been continuously re-elected.

Choice Boswell Randell, democrat, of Sherman, Texas, a native Georgian, removed to Texas in 1879; is a lawyer by profession; was elected to the Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth, Sixtieth and Sixty-first congresses, and re-elected to the Sixty-second congress. He voted consistently with his party while the Payne bill was under consideration.—Harper's Weekly.

### TIMELY QUOTATIONS

S. W. Adams, Spur, Texas.—I have read The Commoner several years, with ever increasing interest. It is the one light which will guide the fleet of our citizenship to a safe haven. The following quotations are called to mind by your weekly articles:

"Sir, there are two passions which have a powerful influence in the affairs of men. These are the ambitions and avarice—the love of power and the love of money. Separately, each of these has great force in prompting men to action; but, when united in view of the same object, they have, in many minds, the most violent effects. Place before the eyes of such men (one individual bobs up here) a post of honor, that shall, at the same time, be a place of profit, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it."—Franklin.

"The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual, and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction (the same individual bobs up here), more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purpose of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty."—Washington.

May your crusade continue until every citizen, every mother who rears a citizen, may see the true guardian genius of democracy.